

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;
receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and
updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference,
wherein the favorites tables includes a display preference field that ~~signifies~~ comprises
a user-selected option to define an order preference for a way in which the channel
favorites are displayed, wherein the display preference field allows a user to select
between at least an order based on a cumulative viewing time per channel and an order
based on a number of times each favorite channel is viewed.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the updating includes adding the
calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the updating further includes
incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the favorites table.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a
list of channels from the channel favorites table.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the list of channels is
displayed according to said field.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a viewer of the
interactive television system.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for generating a list of channel favorites in an interactive television system, comprising:

receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;
receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and
updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference,
wherein the updating is performed if and only if the calculated time difference is larger than a threshold that begins at, ~~wherein the threshold is~~ ten seconds.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

13. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:
receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;
receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;
calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and
update a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the favorites tables includes a display preference field that comprises ~~signifies~~ a user-selected option to define an order preference for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed, wherein the display preference field allows a user to select between at

least an order based on a cumulative viewing time per channel and an order based on a number of times each favorite channel is viewed.

14. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update includes adding the calculated time difference to a first channel cumulative time field in the favorites table.

15. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the instruction to update further includes incrementing a counter in a first channel view frequency field of the favorites table.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising an instruction to display a list of channels from the channel favorites table.

18. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the instruction to display includes an instruction to display the list of channels according to said field.

19. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, further comprising an instruction to identify a viewer of the first and second channels.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to:
receive a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;
receive a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;
calculate a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

update a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the instruction to update is performed if and only if the calculated time difference is larger than a threshold that begins at, ~~wherein the threshold is ten seconds.~~

22. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

23. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include selecting a first and second channel, respectively.

24. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the first and second activities include viewing a first and second channel, respectively.

25. (currently amended) An apparatus for creating favorite channels in interactive television system, comprising:

means for receiving a first notification, the first notification indicating a first channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the first notification, means for receiving a second notification, the second notification indicating a second channel activity;

communicatively coupled to the means for receiving the second notification, means for calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

communicatively coupled to the calculating means, means for updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference wherein the channel favorites tables includes a display preference field that comprises a user-selected option to define an order in which the favorite channels are displayed, wherein the display preference field allows a user to select between at least an order based on a cumulative viewing time per channel and an order based on a number of times each favorite channel is viewed.

26. (currently amended) An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel favorites of a viewer, wherein the channel favorites table is further capable to store a display preference field that comprises ~~signifies~~ the viewer's preference for ~~a way~~ an order in which the channel favorites are displayed, wherein the display preference field allows a user to select between at least an order based on a cumulative viewing time per channel and an order based on a number of times each favorite channel is viewed;

a generation engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to receive a notification, the notification indicating a channel activity, the generation engine further capable to calculate a time difference between receipt of notifications and to update the channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference; and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to display contents of the channel favorites table.

27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the display engine is capable to display contents of the channel favorites table according to the said field.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine and display engine are further capable to identify the viewer.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the generation engine is further capable to filter channel changes based on the calculated time difference.

31. (currently amended) An apparatus for generating favorite channels in an interactive television system, comprising:

a channel favorites table capable to store channel favorites of a viewer;

a generation engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to receive a notification, the notification indicating a channel activity, the generation engine further capable to calculate a time difference between receipt of notifications and to update the channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference; and

a display engine communicatively coupled to the channel favorites table and capable to display contents of the channel favorites table, wherein the generation engine filters channel changes if the calculated time difference is less than a threshold that begins at, ~~wherein the threshold is ten seconds.~~

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the notifications are electronic program guide notifications received from an electronic program guide.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel activity includes selecting a channel.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the channel activity includes viewing a channel.

35. (currently amended) A server that can be communicatively coupled to interactive television system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a set top box, a first electronic program guide notification, the first notification indicating a selection of a first channel;

means for receiving, from the set top box, a second electronic program guide notification, the second notification indicating a selection of a second channel;

means for calculating a time difference between the first and the second notifications; and

means for updating a channel favorites table based on the calculated time difference, wherein the updating is performed if and only if the calculated time difference is larger than a threshold that begins at ten seconds.

36-78. (canceled)

79. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the display preference field further allows the user to select an order based on ~~for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is~~ in a numerical order by channel number.

80-81. (canceled)

82. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the display preference field further allow the user to select an order based on ~~for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is~~ in a numerical order by channel number.

83-84. (canceled)

85. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the display preference field further allows the user to select an order based on ~~for a way in which the channel favorites are displayed is~~ in a numerical order by channel number.

86-98. (canceled)